

URBAN DISTRICT OF NESTON



R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(John Hatton, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR

1942

Presented by

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Barrister-at-Law

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

This report for the year 1942 concerns a period prior to the departure of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr John Hatton, on active service in His Majesty's Navy.

To comply with wartime requirements it is meagre and a mere unclothed skeleton by comparison with the detailed treatment, item by item, in statistical tables, commentaries and suggestions, which were demanded by the Ministry in pre-war days. However, it serves the purpose of obviating any rupture in the sequence of Annual Reports.

The Chief Sanitary Inspectors in Hoylake and Wirral and the Inspector in Neston, provide the matters which are concerned with environmental hygiene. Without the aid of these officials and the valuable assistance which they freely proffered to me, my task in the resumption of duty would have been much more onerous than it proved.

To each of these Officers I tender my thanks.

J. B. Yeoman

Acting Medical Officer of Health

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1942)	9,645
Number of inhabited houses	2,573
Rateable value	£70,400
Sum represented by a penny rate	£270

The area is residential and agricultural

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Live Births (Legitimate)	131	74	57	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident popul- ation .. 13.99
(Illegitimate)	4	1	3	
<u>Still Births</u>	4	2	2	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 28.70

Birth Rate for England and Wales 15.6

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	118	59	59

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12.2

Death Rate for England and Wales 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births</u>
Puerperal sepsis ..	Nil	-
Other puerperal causes	Nil	-
Total	Nil	-

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	22.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	15.26
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	250
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales	.. .. .	49.0

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	21
Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	-
Diarrhoea (under two years)	.. .. .	-

Deaths at various ages during 1942:-

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	3
1 year and under 2	-
2 years and under 5	3
5 years and under 15	-
15 years and under 25	3
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	3
45 years and under 55	11
55 years and under 65	27
65 years and under 75	32
75 years and upwards	34
Total	118

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Infantile Deaths

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below:-

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 5 mths.	5 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Atelectasis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Premature Birth	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marasmus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3

CAUSES OF DEATH

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the causes of death.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	1	1	1
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	1	1	1
4. Whooping Cough	1	1	1
Totals c/f	1	1	1

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
b/f	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis ..	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and .. oesophagus (M), uterus (F) ..	1	1	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	3	4
15. Cancer of breast	-	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	7	5	12
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	7	4	11
19. Heart disease	20	25	45
20. Other disease of circulatory system	1	3	4
21. Bronchitis	1	-	1
22. Pneumonia	1	2	3
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	3	-	3
28. Nephritis	4	2	6
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	-	-	-
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	1	2	3
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Road traffic accidents	-	1	1
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	5	4	9
TOTALS	59	59	118

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health: J. Matton M.D., D.P.H. (on active service)

Acting Medical Officer of Health: J. B. Yeoman, M.D., F.R.C.S.
(Edin.), D.P.H. Barrister-at-law

Sanitary Inspector: A.E. Prince, D.P.A. (L'pool) A.R.San.I.
M.R.I.P.H.H.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health is also Acting Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Hoylake and Wirral.

Laboratory Facilities

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary

There has been no change in these services during the year

Legislation in Force

There has been no change since the previous Report.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The Council area of the District is supplied by the Council's waterworks and the added areas are supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. Both supplies are controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples of water analysed for the West Cheshire Water Board have been consistently satisfactory and the reports on the Council's water have been satisfactory also.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are throughout the area a number of cesspools and so-called septic tanks and unremitting attention is necessary to pre-

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vent gross pollution of ditches and watercourses by the effluent from these receptacles. An extension of the sewerage facilities is necessary to deal effectively with these private plants.

Rivers and Streams

A stream in the Willaston area is polluted by the effluent from an inefficient sewage disposal plant.

Closet Accommodation

There has been no change in the position during 1942.

Public Cleansing

The removal of household refuse is undertaken by the Surveyor's Department.

Disposal by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1	2	3	4
Factories with mechanical power	13	3	-
Factories without mechanical power	47	6	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	6	1	-
Electrical Station should be reckoned as factory.			
Total	66	10	

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2. Defects found:

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
1	2	3	4	5
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Insufficient Unsuitable (S.7.) (or defective (Not separate (for sexes	4	4	-	-
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or Offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	3	3	-	-
Total	10	10	-	-

Number and Nature of Inspections made	Notices Served		Results of Service of Notices		Prosecutions		
	Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending	
Dwellingshouses:-							
Inspected on complaints	252	2	61	55	8	-	-
Re. Infectious Disease	142	-	5	5	-	-	-
Housing Acts on Com- plaints	70	-	25	19	6	-	-
House to House Inspec- tion	169	-	13	10	3	-	-
Overcrowding	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans & Sheds	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Factories and Workshops Acts:-							
Underground Bakehouses	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Bakehouses	7	-	4	4	-	-	-
Laundries	6	-	2	2	-	-	-
Outworkers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workplaces	45	-	4	3	1	-	-
Other Workplaces	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theatres abd Cinemas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cowsheds	108	-	25	25	-	-	-
Dairies and Milkshops	90	-	7	7	-	-	-
Milk Samples	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premises used for pre- paration of food	76	-	16	14	2	-	-
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	5	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Samples	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs, Fowls and other Animals	27	-	13	13	-	-	-
c/f	1039	2	176	158	20	-	-

Number and Nature of Inspections made		Notices Served		Results of Service of Notices		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
b/s	1039	2	176	158	20	-	-
Stables	5	-	2	2	-	-	-
Schools	33	-	3	3	-	-	-
Sewers, Ventilators, etc	5	-	4	-	-	-	-
Street Gullies	20	-	5	3	-	-	-
Back Passages	6	-	11	1	-	-	-
Drains Inspected	29	-	14	14	-	-	-
Excavations made	25	-	11	11	-	-	-
Smoke Tested	14	-	5	6	-	-	-
Water Tested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Etc.	65	-	21	21	-	-	-
Refuse Collection	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Disposal	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	21	-	16	16	-	-	-
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	12	-	5	6	-	-	-
Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke complaints visited	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shops Acts - Inspections	57	-	10	16	-	-	-
Pools, Ditches, Etc.	24	-	10	10	-	-	-
Privy middens, etc.	125	-	5	5	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits and Bins	32	4	22	26	-	-	-
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1030	6	216	200	20	-	-

FOODSTUFFS DEALT WITH DURING 1942

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	Tins	Weight
<u>Tinned Milk</u>		lbs.
Evaporated	47	47
Dried	8	8
	55	55
<u>Canned Meat</u>	50	147 $\frac{1}{4}$
<u>Canned Fish</u>	12	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Canned Vegetables and Fruit</u>	24	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Canned Soups</u>	2	2
<u>Meat (Butchers)</u>		39
<u>Margarine</u>		14
<u>Butter</u>		$\frac{3}{4}$
Total	143	302
2 cwt 2 qrs 22 lbs		

Shops and Offices

Inspections of 57 premises were made during the year.

Camping Sites

1. Number of sites in use in 1942 Nil
2. Number of Licenses issued Nil
3. Estimated No. of campers resident at one time Nil

Smoke Abatement

No action was taken under Section 101 of the Public Health

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Act, 1936, dealing with smoke nuisance.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No. of houses found to be infested	(a) Council Houses	Nil.
	(b) Other Houses	..	..	1
No. of houses disinfested	(a) Council Houses	..	..	Nil.
	(b) Other Houses	..	..	1

Method employed:-

The house was treated with a proprietary gaseous disinfectant. At the end of the year the house was free from bed-bugs.

Schools

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply. All have water closets.

Housing

No inspections were made under the Housing Act. The concentration of activity in other directions necessarily curtailed any intensive work and reliance was made mainly upon the Public Health Act for the remedying of defects brought to notice.

Milk Supply

There are 55 registered cowkeepers 23 of whom are "accredited" producers; and two producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Special designations: Licenses were granted to:-

Bottle and Sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	1
Sell T.T. "Certified" Milk	..	..	..	1
"Accredited" Supplementary Licenses	..	..	..	2
Pasteurised	..	..	..	2

Total 6

Meat and other foods

Inspection of meat and other foods was carried out during the

year and 76 visits were paid for this purpose.

Adulteration, etc.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

SCABIES

During the period under review 56 cases of Scabies were brought to notice by doctors, nurses, the School Medical Service and by sufferers presenting themselves voluntarily for treatment.

The effect of the Scabies Order, 1941 and of Circular 2645 of the Ministry of Health dated 14th. May, 1942, was that it became necessary for the Council to provide treatment facilities. This might have proved difficult: it certainly would have proved expensive but for the exceedingly welcome assistance afforded by the Neston War Memorial Cottage Hospital. Thanks are due to the Matron, Nursing Sisters and staff, who undertook the additional duties of treating Scabies in the Out Patients department of the Hospital.

The treatment consists of a complete painting of the body with a 25% solution of Benzyl Benzoate followed by similar treatment after an interval of two days. There have been persistent cases which appear to be due to re-infection from treated members of a household. It is difficult to persuade parents of the need for treating every occupant of the house simultaneously in order to destroy the parasite.

Time and again failure to present for treatment one or two individuals has resulted in the re-infection of an entire household.

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Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

205 cases of infectious disease other than tuberculosis were notified during 1942. Details of these are given below.

There were no cases of Malaria, Typhoid Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia in the Urban District during the period under review.

The incidence of Diphtheria was practically the same as in the previous year a total of 19 cases compared with 16. All the patients were isolated in hospital and treated with diphtheria antitoxin and all recovered. Scarlet Fever notifications shewed an increase during 1942. 47 cases being reported as against 4 in 1941.

12 cases of Pneumonia and two cases of Erysipelas also occurred but none of these presented any unusual features. 5 cases of Whooping Cough and 107 cases of Measles were reported. All these patients recovered.

Three cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever were reported during the year. The patients recovered.

The Council's scheme for free diphtheria immunisation has made satisfactory progress though the response of parents of children under five years of age has been rather disappointing. Details of the children who have been treated at the Council's clinics are given below.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Return for Twelve months ending 31st December, 1942

	Years of Age	
	Under 5	Between 5 & 15
Approximate estimated number of children in the District at 31st. Dec. 1942.	750	1,133

Return for twelve months ending 31st December, 1942 (Continued)

	Years of Age	
	Under 5	Between 5 & 15
Number of children who received the full course of immunisation between 1st January and 31st December, 1942	168	141
Percentage of children immunised to child population	27.2%	89.8%

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1942

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified													Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages - years													
		Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	47	-	-	4	1	3	27	8	1	3	-	-	1	41	1
Diphtheria	19	-	-	1	2	1	8	-	2	5	1	-	1	25	-
Pneumonia	12	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	1	1	3	2	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Measles	107	-	-	6	4	7	49	38	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	15	1	2	1	2	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	205	1	2	11	10	13	96	47	3	12	3	4	3	65	-

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken during 1942 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	-	-	1	1	1	-

